



What's old is new again: Justices back at court for new term

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court returned to the courtroom Monday for the start of a momentous new term, after a nearly 19-month absence because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Abortion, guns and religion all are on the agenda for a court with a rightward tilt, including three justices appointed by former President Donald Trump.

Chief Justice John Roberts was in his usual place in the center chair and Justice Clarence Thomas, the court's longest serving member, was to his right. But almost everything else was a little different for a court that, like the rest of the country, still is dealing

with the virus.

Inside the courtroom, eight of the nine justices took the bench at 10 a.m. EDT. Justice Brett Kavanaugh participated remotely from his home after testing positive for COVID-19 late last week, his voice echoing in the courtroom when he had a question to ask while his high-backed chair sat empty. Kavanaugh, who was vaccinated in January, is showing no symptoms, the court said. All the other justices also have been vaccinated.

Monday was also the first time that new Justice Amy Coney Barrett participated in arguments in the courtroom, despite nearly a year on the court as its most junior member.

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This June 8, 2021 file photo shows the Supreme Court building in Washington.

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Continued from Front

Only about 50 people were in attendance — lawyers involved in the cases, reporters who regularly cover the court, retired Justice Anthony Kennedy, some of the justices' spouses and some court employees. Justice Sonia Sotomayor was the only justice who wore a mask. Sotomayor, who has had diabetes since childhood, is the only one of the justices with a known chronic condition. Spectators sat in socially-distant spots and wore masks, although the lawyers removed theirs for their arguments. The lectern the lawyers were arguing from was also placed farther away from the justices than before the pandemic.

The court is also requiring negative COVID-19 tests from lawyers and reporters who want to be in the courtroom. Lawyers who test positive will be able to present their arguments via telephone, the court said. That's the way lawyers had been arguing before the court because of the pandemic.

With the building closed to the public, the court's hallways, normally bustling on mornings when the court is in session, were eerily quiet. A portrait of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died just over a year ago, hangs in a main corridor, directly across from her friend and colleague who died in 2016, Justice Antonin Scalia. As visitors enter the building from its north side, the liberal Ginsburg's portrait is on the left, the conservative Scalia's on the



In this April 23, 2021, file photo members of the Supreme Court pose for a group photo at the Supreme Court in Washington. Seated from left are Associate Justice Samuel Alito, Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice John Roberts, Associate Justice Stephen Breyer and Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Standing from left are Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh, Associate Justice Elena Kagan, Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch and Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

Associated Press

right — in death as in life. Monday was the first time the public was able to listen live to courtroom proceedings, via a link on the court's website. The court first allowed live audio for the telephonic arguments it conducted in 2020 and earlier this year because of the pandemic.

Those who listened in heard Thomas continue to ask questions, a practice he began during the telephonic arguments. Before that, it had been years since he asked a question in the courtroom. His colleagues appeared to defer to him Monday, as Thomas

asked the first questions in the day's two cases — a water fight between Tennessee and Mississippi and a dispute over an enhanced prison term for a repeat offender.

"Well counsel, you seem to complain about Tennessee pumping water from Mississippi, but you admit that Tennessee does not enter across the border into Mississippi, isn't that correct?" Thomas said, asking the term's first question.

Monday's cases were not among the highly anticipated disputes the court will referee this term.

In the dispute over wa-

ter, there seemed to be little support for Mississippi's claim that the Memphis area has been taking the state's water from an underground aquifer that sits beneath parts of both states. The dispute stretches back to 2005 when Mississippi first claimed that Memphis was pumping water from the Mississippi portion of the aquifer. Tennessee says water doesn't work that way, contending the aquifer is an interstate resource that should be shared fairly.

In the other case, the justices appeared favorable to William Wooden of Tennessee, a man with a prior criminal record who was given a mandatory 15-year minimum prison sentence when he was convicted of having a gun. Federal law prevents felons from owning firearms.

The case arises under the Armed Career Criminal Act

and the issue is whether the theft of items from 10 units on the same day at a mini storage facility should count as one conviction or 10, which lower courts found made the man eligible for the longer prison sentence. "Who thinks that, Ms. Ross, in the real world?" Justice Neil Gorsuch asked Justice Department lawyer Erica Ross as she explained why the court should consider that Wooden committed 10 crimes.

Thomas, though, was skeptical of part of lawyer Alon Kedem's argument on behalf of Wooden. "What if they took a smoke break?" Thomas asked. Or if Wooden and his accomplices decided to have lunch or a cup of coffee before resuming the break-in at the storage units, would that be considered one crime or more, Thomas wanted to know. Also on Monday the court affirmed a lower court ruling that said District of Columbia residents are not entitled to voting representation in the House of Representatives. That was among hundreds of appeals the court rejected.

The justices also:

— Declined to get involved in a lawsuit over a disputed Pentagon cloud computing contract, a decision that follows the cancellation of the contract for the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure Cloud computing project earlier this year.
— Left in place a lower court ruling that revived a lawsuit by the brother of a man who, as a passenger in a fleeing car, was fatally shot by police in Hayward, California.

— Rejected an appeal from the Philadelphia-area transit system of a lower-court ruling that would force it to display ads touting a prize-winning investigation by the Center for Investigative Reporting into racial bias in the mortgage market. □

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Trump faces deadline for questioning in defamation suit

By JENNIFER PELTZ

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump now has a Dec. 23 deadline to undergo questioning in a former "Apprentice" contestant's defamation lawsuit over what he said in denying her sexual assault allegations, a court said Monday.

The new deadline for Trump's deposition — a legal term for out-of-court, pretrial questioning under oath — comes as Summer Zervos' 2017 lawsuit emerges from a more than year-long freeze.

"The defendant is now a private citizen, and he just cannot delay this litigation any longer," Zervos attorney Moira Penza told a Manhattan judge's law clerk during the teleconference.

Then-President Trump was weeks away from a January 2020 deposition deadline when he won a delay to ask the New York's top court to consider holding off the case entirely until he was out of office. He argued that sitting presidents couldn't be sued in state courts.

After he left office this year, the state high court



In this Oct. 18, 2018, file photo, Summer Zervos leaves New York state appellate court in New York. Associated Press

— called the Court of Appeals — said the question was moot. The case returned to a Manhattan trial court for both sides to continue gathering evidence. Depositions of both Trump and Zervos are now due by Dec. 23. Their lawyers have two weeks to try to nail down specific dates, or the court will set them.

Zervos, a California restaurateur, appeared on "The Apprentice" in 2006. Trump

was then the host.

A decade later, he was the Republican presidential nominee, and she was among a series of women who publicly accused him of sexual assaults or harassment years before. Zervos said he subjected her to unwanted kissing and groping during what she thought would be career-advice meetings in 2007 at his New York office and at a California hotel where he

was staying.

He denied her allegations, retweeted a message that called her claims "a hoax" and described the women who accused him of sexual assault and harassment as "liars" trying to hurt his 2016 campaign's chances.

Zervos then sued, saying he hurt her reputation. She is seeking a retraction, an apology and unspecified damages.

Former Trump lawyer Marc

Kasowitz called Zervos' claims meritless and said Trump's statements were true and protected by free speech rights.

Trump's new lawyer, Alina Habba, said Monday she plans to expand the former president's response to the case. She said she planned to draw on a 2020 New York law meant to protect people from frivolous lawsuits launched by the powerful to squelch criticism.

The law expanded an existing statute, making it easier to fight defamation claims when they center on communication in public "in connection with an issue of public interest," defined as "any subject other than a purely private matter."

Trump previously raised a somewhat similar California law among his defenses in Zervos' suit. Still, Habba said drawing on the New York statute would make a difference.

"With the new law in place, I think this case will be wrapped up very quickly," she said after court.

When the measure was making its way through the state Legislature last year, a sponsor pointed to Trump himself as a rationale. □

Biden lifts abortion referral ban on family planning clinics

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration on Monday reversed a ban on abortion referrals by family planning clinics, lifting a Trump-era restriction as political and legal battles over abortion grow sharper from Texas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Department of Health and Human Services said its new regulation will restore the federal family planning program to the way it ran under the Obama administration, when clinics were able to refer women seeking abortions to a provider. Groups representing the clinics said they hope the Biden administration action will lead hundreds of service providers that left in protest over Trump's policies to return, helping to

stabilize a longstanding program that has been shaken by the coronavirus pandemic on top of ideological battles.

Known as Title X, the taxpayer-funded program makes available more than \$250 million a year to clinics to provide birth control and basic health care services mainly to low-income women. Under former President Donald Trump, clinics were barred from referring patients for abortions, prompting a mass exit by service providers affiliated with Planned Parenthood, as well as several states and other independent organizations.

Women's groups labeled the Trump policy a "gag rule," and medical organizations called it a violation of the clinician-patient relationship. But religious

and social conservatives praised the policy for imposing a strict separation between family planning services and abortion. Under federal law, clinics could not use federal money to pay for abortions.

In 2018, the family planning clinics served about 3.9 million clients, but HHS estimates that number fell by nearly 40% after the Trump policy. The upheaval may have led to more than 180,000 unintended pregnancies, the agency said. Biden campaigned on a promise to overturn the restrictions on family planning clinics, but abortion was not a central issue in the 2020 presidential race. It may become one in the 2022 midterm elections to determine who controls Congress.

Restrictive state laws in



Demonstrators rally to demand continued access to abortion during the March for Reproductive Justice, Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

Texas, Mississippi and elsewhere have prompted a mobilization by abortion rights supporters, who fear a conservative-leaning Supreme Court will overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abor-

tion nationally. Hundreds of abortion-themed protests were held around the country Saturday, including one that brought thousands of abortion rights supporters to the steps of the court. □

Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram suffer worldwide outage

By **FRANK BAJAK and BARBARA ORTUTAY**
Associated Press

Facebook along with its Instagram and WhatsApp platforms suffered a worldwide outage Monday that has extended more than three hours. Facebook's internal systems used by employees also went down. Service has not yet been restored.

The company did not say what might be causing the outage, which began around 11:40 a.m. ET. Websites and apps often suffer outages of varying size and duration, but hourslong global disruptions are rare.

"This is epic," said Doug Madory, director of internet analysis for Kentik Inc, a network monitoring and intelligence company. The last major internet outage, which knocked many of the world's top websites offline in June, lasted less than an hour. The stricken content-delivery company in that case, Fastly, blamed it on a software bug triggered by a customer who changed a setting.

Facebook's only public comment so far was a tweet in which it acknowledged that "some people are having trouble accessing (the) Facebook app" and that it was working on restoring access. Regarding



In this March 29, 2018, file photo, the logo for Facebook appears on screens at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York's Times Square.

Associated Press

ing the internal failures, Instagram head Adam Mosseri tweeted that it feels like a "snow day."

But the impact was far worse for multitudes of Facebook's nearly 3 billion users, showing just how much the world has come to rely on it and its properties — to run businesses, connect with communities of affinity, log on to multiple other websites and even to order food.

It also showed that, despite the presence of Twitter, Telegram, Signal, TikTok, Snapchat and a bevy of

other platforms, nothing can truly replace the social network that has evolved in 17 years into all but critical infrastructure. Facebook's request Monday that a revised antitrust complaint against it by the Federal Trade Commission be dismissed because it faces vigorous competition from other services seemed to ring a bit hollow.

The cause of the outage remains unclear. Madory said it appears Facebook withdrew "authoritative DNS routes" that let the rest of the internet commu-

nicate with its properties. Such routes are part of the internet's Domain Name System, a central component of the internet that directs its traffic. Without Facebook broadcasting its routes on the public internet, apps and web addresses simple could not locate it.

So many people are reliant on Facebook, WhatsApp or Instagram as a primary mode of communication that losing access for so long can make them vulnerable to criminals taking advantage of the outage,

said Rachel Tobac, a hacker and CEO of SocialProof Security.

"They don't know how to contact the people in their lives without it," she said. "They're more susceptible to social engineering because they're so desperate to communicate." Tobac said during previous outages, some people have received emails promising to restore their social media account by clicking on a malicious link that can expose their personal data.

Jake Williams, chief technical officer of the cybersecurity firm BreachQuest, said that while foul play cannot be completely ruled out, chances were good that the outage is "an operational issue" caused by human error.

Madory said there was no sign that anyone but Facebook was responsible and discounted the possibility that another major internet player, such as a telecom company, might have inadvertently rewritten major routing tables that affect Facebook.

"No one else announced these routes," said Madory. Computer scientists speculated that a bug introduced by a configuration change in Facebook's routing management system could be to blame. □

Florida first lady Casey DeSantis has breast cancer



This Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 file photo shows Florida first lady Casey DeSantis in Miami.

Associated Press

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON**
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida first lady Casey DeSantis has breast cancer,

her husband Gov. Ron DeSantis announced Monday. DeSantis, 41, is the moth-

er of the couple's three children, the youngest of whom was born after the governor took office in January 2019.

"As she faces the most difficult test of her life, she will ... not only have my unwavering support but the support of our entire family, as well as the prayers and well wishes from Floridians across our state. Casey is a true fighter, and she will never, never, never give up," the Republican governor said in a statement.

Casey DeSantis has played an active role in her husband's administration, advocating for people with mental health issues. She often appears with him,

children in tow, at bill signings and other official events.

Republican and Democratic leaders put partisanship aside during an outpouring of support for Mrs. DeSantis on social media.

"As a #breastcancer survivor also diagnosed at 41 and a 14 year survivor, I'm wishing you the strength you need to fight and win this battle," Democratic U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz said on Twitter. "The breast cancer survivor sisterhood knows no party. Please reach out if I can help in any way."

The leading Democrats hoping to challenge Ron DeSantis, Agriculture Com-

missioner Nikki Fried and U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist, also tweeted their support.

"Here's to a successful treatment and a speedy recovery. Almost every family has been touched in some way by cancer, and our hearts are with you in this fight. God bless," Crist said.

Likewise, House Speaker Chris Sprowls and Senate President Wilton Simpson, both Republicans, expressed their prayers for Mrs. DeSantis.

"The prayers of the entire Senate family are with our wonderful First Lady Casey DeSantis, Governor DeSantis and their entire family as they face this serious health challenge," Simpson said. □

Swedish artist threatened for Muhammad sketch dies in crash

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish artist Lars Vilks, who had lived under police protection since making a sketch of the Prophet Muhammad with a dog's body in 2007, died in a weekend car crash along with two police bodyguards, police said Monday. He was 75.

Vilks and two plainclothes officers were killed in a head-on crash with a truck on Sunday afternoon, said Carina Persson, the police chief for southern Sweden. All three died on the spot. The 45-year-old truck driver was flown to a hospital with serious injuries.

Persson said the police car, which was being driven by one of the bodyguards, had left Stockholm and was heading south when it veered into the path of the truck. Both vehicles then burst into flames. The accident occurred near Markaryd, 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of Malmö, Sweden's third-largest city.

"There is nothing else for now that indicates that it was something else but a traffic accident," Persson told a press conference. Sweden's top police chief, Anders Thornberg, said an investigation would take

place, but was expected "to take a relatively long time."

Sweden's Culture Minister Amanda Lind called it "an extremely tragic traffic accident."

Vilks was largely unknown outside Sweden before 2007, when he drew a sketch of Muhammad with a dog's body. Dogs are considered unclean by conservative Muslims and Islamic law generally opposes any depiction of the prophet, even favorable, for fear it could lead to idolatry.

Al-Qaida put a bounty on Vilks' head. In 2010, two men tried to burn down his house in southern Sweden. Since that time, Vilks was forced to live under police protection, "due to the fact that he made use of his freedom of expression and his artistic freedom," Lind said Monday.

Over the years he continued to face death threats. In 2014, a woman from Pennsylvania pleaded guilty in a plot to kill him.

The following year, a free-speech seminar that Vilks attended in Copenhagen, Denmark, was attacked by a lone gunman who killed a Danish film director and



In this Aug. 27, 2021 file photo Swedish artist Lars Vilks is pictured during a visit to Warsaw, Poland, for the opening of an exhibition that featured some of his works.

Associated Press

wounded three police officers.

Vilks, who was widely believed to have been the intended target of that 2015 attack, was whisked away unharmed by bodyguards. The gunman later killed

a Jewish security guard outside a synagogue and wounded two more officers before he was killed in a firefight with police.

Police said Monday they did not know why Vilks' car drove into the wrong lane

but they were investigating whether a tire might have exploded. The car had puncture-proof tires, police said.

The accident happened on the north-south E4 highway on Sunday afternoon. The unmarked police car apparently ploughed through a cable guardrail separating the north- and south-bound lanes, senior police officer Stefan Siteus said at the news conference.

"We have found residues of tire on the E4 before the accident, and we are looking into the possibility that there could have been some kind of tire explosion," Siteus said.

The police vehicle weighed 4.5 tons, which could explain how it could drive through a cable guardrail, Siteus said. An ordinary large vehicle weighs less than 2 tons. He added that the speed limit at the site was 110 kilometers per hour (68 mph).

Two investigations are now taking place. Chief Prosecutor Kajsa Sundgren said she had taken over a preliminary investigation into whether "any police officer may have committed a crime in connection with the accident." □

Death toll in Cyclone Shaheen now 13 as storm churns in Oman

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The death toll from Cyclone Shaheen rose to 13 on Monday while other fishermen from Iran remained missing as the storm moved further inland into Oman and weakened. Authorities in Oman said they found the body of a man who disappeared when floodwaters swept him away from his vehicle. On Sunday as the storm made landfall, they said a child similarly drowned and two foreigners from Asia died in a landslide. The country's National Committee for Emergency Management announced Monday afternoon seven additional deaths from the storm, without elaborating. In Iran, the state-run IRNA

news agency said rescuers found the bodies of two of five fishermen who went missing off Pasabandar, a fishing village near the Islamic Republic's border with Pakistan. Earlier on Sunday, Iranian deputy parliament speaker Ali Nikzad said he feared as many as six fishermen had been killed because of the cyclone.

Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province also saw 122 people go to the hospital Sunday after a dust storm spun up by the cyclone caused them to suffer from eye, heart and lung problems, said Abbasali Arjmandi, the governor of the city of Zabol. Eighteen needed to be hospitalized for further care, he said.

India's Meteorological Department, the top forecast-

ers for cyclones that sweep across the Indian Ocean, said winds from Shaheen now gust up to 90 kph (55 mph) and would continue to weaken. It predicted the storm would weaken into a tropical depression in the coming hours. Shaheen made landfall with winds reaching up to 150 kph (93 mph).

Omani state television broadcast images of flooded roadways and valleys as the storm churned deeper into the sultanate, its outer edges reaching the neighboring United Arab Emirates. The Emirates, home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, had issued warnings to residents that the storm was coming. Winds had picked up in the country from Sunday, sweeping across the grounds of Dubai's newly



In this photo released by the Oman News Agency, Oman Air Force personnel fly over the Al Khaburah district to assess damage from Cyclone Shaheen, in Oman, Monday, Oct. 4, 2021.

Associated Press

opened Expo 2020.

A cyclone is the same as a hurricane or a typhoon; their names only change because of their location. Hurricanes are spawned

east of the international date line. Typhoons develop west of the line. They are known as cyclones in the Indian Ocean and Australia. □

Indian town on edge after 9 die during farm protest

By **BISWAJEET BANERJEE**

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — Indian authorities suspended internet services and barred political leaders from entering a northern town Monday to calm tensions after nine people were killed in a deadly escalation of a yearlong demonstration against contentious agriculture laws.

Four farmers died Sunday when a car owned by Junior Home Minister Ajay Mishra ran over protesting farmers in the Uttar Pradesh town of Lakhimpur Kheri, officials and farm leaders said.

Mishra said his driver and three members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party who were in the car were all killed by the protesters in the violence that broke out after the incident.

"They were beaten to death by the farmers," Mishra said in a statement.

Farm leaders alleged that Mishra's son was in the car when it ran over the protesters, but Mishra denied it.

Police on Monday said they had so far arrested six people and filed a criminal complaint against 14 more, including the minis-



Paramilitary force soldiers detain an activist of Congress party's youth wing protesting against Sunday's killing of four farmers in Uttar Pradesh state after being run over by a car owned by India's junior home minister in New Delhi, India, Monday, Oct. 4, 2021.

Associated Press

ter's son, in connection with the deaths of the four farmers. The BJP also lodged a criminal complaint against the farmers over the deaths of its members and the car driver, said Arvind Chaurasia, a senior official in charge of the district.

Police also said they recovered the body of a lo-

cal journalist from the spot where violence ensued Sunday but did not provide further details on how he was killed.

The violence marked an escalation in ongoing protests against agriculture laws that farmers say will shatter their livelihoods. The protests have lasted since

the government passed the laws last September and have been one of the biggest challenges to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Last week, thousands of farmers gathered at the edges of the capital New Delhi to mark one year of demonstrations. The government says the changes

in the laws were needed to modernize agriculture and boost production through private investment. But the farmers say the laws will devastate their earnings by ending guaranteed pricing and will force them to sell their crops to corporations at cheaper prices.

Police officer Arun Kumar Singh told The Associated Press that all schools have been shut in the district and people have been advised to stay indoors following the violence in Lakhimpur Kheri, 200 kilometers (124 miles) southeast of Uttar Pradesh's capital, Lucknow.

Authorities also barred leaders from various opposition parties from entering the district to meet the farmers amid concerns it could cause further disorder.

Senior police official Prashant Kumar said the administration would provide monetary compensation to the families of the deceased farmers and also set up a judicial inquiry to probe the violence. Farm leaders, however, demand action against the minister and his son, saying Mishra should be removed from office. □

Jailed U.S. journalist in Myanmar slapped with new charge



In this 2018, photo, U.S. journalist Danny Fenster works out of his van that he made into a home/office in Detroit.

Associated Press

By **GRANT PECK**

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — A U.S. journalist who has spent more than four months in pretrial detention in military-ruled Myanmar has been charged with a second criminal offense, his lawyer

said Monday, while authorities refused to disclose the reason behind his arrest.

Danny Fenster, managing editor of the Yangon-based online news and business magazine Frontier Myanmar, has been charged under the Unlawful Associa-

tions Act, said lawyer Than Zaw Aung.

Fenster, 37, already was charged with incitement, also known as sedition, for allegedly spreading false or inflammatory information. That offense is punishable by up to three years in prison.

It is not known what Fenster is accused of doing that led to his arrest on May 24 as he was preparing to board a flight at Yangon International Airport to go to the Detroit area in the United States to see his family.

Asked last week about the reason for Fenster's arrest, government spokesman Maj.-Gen. Zaw Min Tun responded: "As for journalists, if they do only journalist's work, there is no reason to arrest them. Danny Fenster did more than just what a journalist does."

Fenster is one of about 100 journalists detained since the military's February takeover. More than half have been released but independent media are generally forced to operate underground or from outside the country.

Than Zaw Aung said a judge announced the new charge Monday during Fenster's hearing at the court in Yangon's Insein Prison, where he is being held. He said he was not given further details.

The new charge says anyone who is "a member of an unlawful association, or takes part in meetings of any such association, or contributes or receives or solicits any contribution for the purpose of any such association, or in any way assists the operations of any such association" may be

punished by two to three years' imprisonment and a fine.

Fenster's lawyer and colleagues have denied any wrongdoing on his part. The U.S. government and international media organizations have called for his release. Fenster is one of a handful of foreign journalists who have been arrested and the only one still in custody.

The charge of unlawful associations has largely been used against ethnic rebel groups seeking greater autonomy. Sympathizers and even journalists contacting such groups have also been prosecuted.

The list of designated groups includes popular opposition organizations representing the ousted elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. □

Panama burying more migrant victims of brutal Darien Gap

By JUAN ZAMORANO

Associated Press

AGUA FRIA, Panama (AP)

— In an isolated cemetery in Panama's Darien province, migrants who die crossing the most treacherous segment of their journey toward the United States are buried with a plasticized card containing what little information is available about them in case one day someone comes looking.

On a recent afternoon, white-suited workers laid to rest 15 sets of remains in a long trench at the back of the cemetery. A local priest standing at the head of the trench with a candle, crucifix and flowers performed a simple ceremony. On the white body bags were handwritten clues: "Unknown in Bajo Grande," "Unknown in Turquesa river," and "Unknown #3, Minor." So far this year, Panama has recovered at least 50 sets of remains from migrants crossing the Darien Gap, a number officials believe is only a portion of those who died in the dense, lawless jungle. In recent years, 20 to 30 bodies on average have been recovered annually, but this year Panamanian authorities say more than 90,000 migrants — mostly Haitians — have crossed the Darien Gap from Colombia and the body count reflects that surging migration.

"That number is a minimum quantity of the human remains there are along the whole route," said José Vicente Pachar, director of Panama's Forensic Sciences Institute. "Many of them die of natural causes, for example, a heart attack; they fall and no one attends to them. They stay there or they're assaulted or the water's current comes and takes the bodies that end up floating along the river's edge." Snake bites are also common.

"Right now we don't have a way to investigate like we want to with international support, to go on the trails, the paths, because all the descriptions and statements (say) there are human remains," Pachar said.



A forensics team bury a group of 15 migrants who died trying to cross the Darien Gap, at the Guayabillo cemetery in Agua Fria, Panama, Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021.

Associated Press

Agents of Panama's National Border Service help recover bodies, sometimes extracting them with helicopters, along with investigators from the Darien prosecutor's office.

But the recovery is only the first challenge facing investigators.

The bodies are often badly decomposed in the high-humidity environment or partially eaten by animals. Those who may have witnessed a death, being migrants themselves, keep going and are not around to assist in identifications. And most of the bodies are without identification, it having been stolen or lost. Julio Vergara, Darien province's top prosecutor, says that even when migrants report a death, "when we do the recovery and are going to corroborate the facts, the migrants who reported it have unfortunately continued on their route." He said that of the cases he has opened this year, five Haitians, two Cubans and a Brazilian have been identified. Four of the victims were children.

Haitians made up the majority of the 15,000 migrants who camped for days in Del Rio, Texas, last month beside a border bridge. The U.S. has deported thousands of them to Haiti.

In Panama, much of the identification work falls to Pachar's staff at the

morgue in Panama City.

If possible, they fingerprint the victims, create dental records and try to determine a cause of death. All of that information is entered into a database.

"It is a laborious process because generally the bodies are in a putrefaction stage, many individual characteristics have been lost," Pachar said.

The burial of 15 victims in Agua Fria followed a similar ceremony in the same cemetery weeks earlier. In that case, six sets of remains were interred.

Pachar said the burials are necessary not only out of respect for the victims, but because morgues across Darien need to open space for new victims.

"If someone comes later who wants to take the remains of their loved one, we have a way to tell them: 'Here they are,'" Pachar said.

Vergara said that so far a family had claimed the body of a Cuban migrant and relatives of another non-Latin American migrant confirmed the identity so the person could be buried in Panama according to the family's customs and religious beliefs.

Among the most recent burials was a fetus that Vergara said a Haitian woman had delivered to authorities in a bag. She told them she had miscarried when she

fell during the crossing, the prosecutor said.

Migrants have been buried in at least a half-dozen other communities in Darien. The burials have caused resentment in some Indigenous communities where locals do not want the migrants buried in their cemeteries. There had been rumblings in Agua Fria as well, so a local leader asked

Rev. Delgado Diamante, who performed the burial ceremony, to address the matter in his homily during Mass at the local church.

The day after the burials, farther down the pot-holed highway that leads deeper into Darien, more than 800 migrants — mostly Haitian — got off boats in the Chucunaque River that had carried them out of the jungle and joined nearly 300 already waiting in a migrant camp. Many boarded government buses that would drive them across Panama to a camp near the border with Costa Rica. Iseris Shily, a 34-year-old from Haiti, remained shaken by his ordeal in Darien Gap. He and his wife, Siberisse Evanette, had traveled to Chile in 2017 and left there this year hoping to make it to the United States. Shily said his wife had a miscarriage during the crossing and was hospitalized Friday with bleeding. "She almost died," he said. "We were like six days in the jungle without water, without food, because everything we had brought was gone." □

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Open: Daily
From: 5:00pm to 10:00pm
Tel.: 583-2666
Website: www.pinchosaruba.com

Travellers' Choice 2020

THE WEST DECK
ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

Open: Daily for Lunch and Dinner
From: 10:30 am to 10:00 pm
Tel.: 587-2667
Website: www.thewestdeck.com

Travellers' Choice 2020

Papillon: the butterfly effect of magnificent food

PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambience, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. She points out that all Covid-protocol is in place here, they are very keen on hygiene and offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with social distancing in place and right on the high-rise strip.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table,



Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Chef's Sunday

Tina: “Every Sunday Papillon offers you an exquisite meal option: a 4 -course Chef's Menu with wine pairing for \$100 per person. With regards to the man in the kitchen we have the best of the best: chef Martijn Liebrechts from The Netherlands. He has earned his spurts among others in Amber; one of the best French fine dining restaurant's Hong Kong has to offer, with 2 Michelin-stars and ranked as the 24th best restaurant in the world. Moving back to Amsterdam he joined the team of former Bib Gourmand restaurant “Wilde Zwijnen”, which was awarded the title “The New Dutch Cuisine” by the New York Times.

So you see, this is the time to come over and reserve your table.”

Let the music play!

We will give you another reason to visit: twice a week you can enjoy the tunes of live sax player Jairo or the famous Marisela who enchants you with her acoustic performance accompanied by percussion only. Wednesdays chill away on the French lounge tunes of DJ Ibarra and Tuesdays Jose Herrera enchants you with his keyboard talent. The musicians interact with the guests, requests can be send in, the live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too.” What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.□

Make your reservation today at:

info@papillonaruba.com
or call/WhatsApp + 00297 6995400

Open Daily: 5pm – 10.00pm
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For all menus and specials visit the website: **www.papillonaruba.com**.



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Island's geology

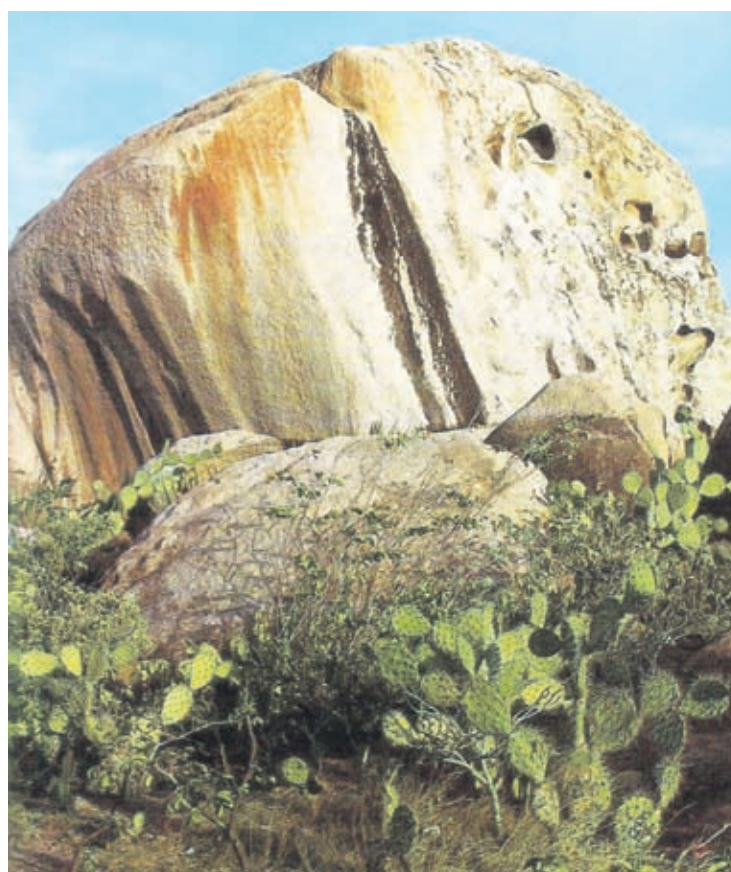
NOORD — In Aruba we can differentiate three basic geological formations. One is a hilly part, second by an undulating part and a third part consisting of limestone which embraces these two zones mentioned before and forming also the coast line.

The giant boulders of Aruba are almost unique in the Caribbean. They are found at Ayo, Casibari, Santa Rosa, Paraguaná and many other places on the island. These formations have been explained as being remnants of ancient volcanic action. It has also been speculated that they once formed parts of landslides that came down from high mountains of South America, a few miles to the south. The clusters of these huge boulders are among the interesting geological aspects of the island. However these big boulders are mainly magma that has cooled off before reaching the superficies.

Also known as part of the quartz diorite or granite landscape (Batholith formations) This we will find

from the central part of Aruba towards the west and at the northwestern end of the island, and from the central part towards the east and south, the landscape is dominated by a rock unit which the main component is quartzdiorite. The landscape here is flat to slightly undulating with quartz cover by boulders. This rock is light gray in color and speckled whit black and white.

It is relatively hard. The typical diorite landscape is found near Santa Cruz. These are all areas with boulders and small or larger patches of sand and vegetation. Places with few boulders and large areas of quartz diorite debris are found in the east part, Tanki Flip, Noord, Alto Vista and in the south of Savaneta. The rocks of the Aruba Lava Formation were extensively used by the



Episode CXXIV 124



inhabitants of the prehistory era. The physical characteristic of the rocks played a key role in determining the purpose for which it would be used. Diabase was used to make axes, chisels, knives and the polishers. The hardness and the homogeneous structure of the rock make it the best raw material for these artifacts available on the island. The polishers were collected at the bay's on the northern coast and were then further polished by the Amerindians tribes who colonized our islands from out the mainland where to make similar tools and artifacts were made. Schist, a softer stone type was used to make pendants and beads; the green color was probably the determining it's attraction. No tools of schist has been found, the sheet or scaled-like structure of the stone is a limiting factor when making an axe or chisel. The rock will easily split along the sheet-lines. Beads and pendants made out of similar rock type were found in archaeological areas_ and described in the literature as Aruba greenstone, however it is often difficult to establish what type of stone it refers to since the term greenstone covers a wide range of different green rock types (schist, rhyolite, jade).□

Did you say that you love Aruba its origins and cultural heritage? Than this private encounter with our columnist anthropologist is just as you. Sessions created in a gorgeous setting for visitor with special interests. Appointment is required. etnianaativa03@gmail.com or Whatsapp us 297 592 2702 for a private reservation.

Tuscany Residence Aruba: Aruba's Luxury Residential Resort with unique Water Villas

NOORD — Within walking distance of the finest white beaches and the clear blue ocean, Tuscany Residence Aruba is founded in one of the best and most popular neighborhoods of Aruba, close to the shopping and nightlife of Palm Beach. Tuscany Residence Aruba brings luxury living to a new level and they are very unique in their offerings with the Daimari Water Villas.

Around 180 exclusive properties will be built in all different sizes and prices, suitable for everyone's wishes and among them are 18 luxury Water Villas, all with a private terrace and direct access to the pool. The Daimari Water Villas include 2 and 3 bedrooms with wardrobes, 2 and 3.5 bathrooms, are fully furnished with a fully equipped German kitchen, fully air-conditioned and with wide aluminum sliding door to the covered pool terraces. Balcony and covered terraces are offered on the 2 floors unit and a private parking in front of the unit or your own garage is all yours. 50% of these amazing houses is already sold! There are still 9 residences available, including 2 with a one car garage.

Tuscany Residences now offer a special pre-construction discount, whereby your advantage increases to 9.7%. Pre-construction prices starting at US\$ 450,775 Turn-Key!

Dutch design

This luxury residential resort with various types of homes has many amenities such as swimming pools, restaurant, bar, offices, meeting rooms, gym, wellness and more. The combination of the beautiful Dutch modern international architecture and the Aruban palm trees creates a luxurious Aruban feeling and relaxed atmosphere in this resort. Tuscany Residence Aruba is the perfect choice for couples and families. Bas de Groot, Managing Director of Tuscany Residence Aruba adds, "We differ from traditional building, our design distinguishes itself." At 8 minutes' walk from Palm Beach, designed in a European style with high-quality materials, on property land and with buying possibilities from condos to townhouses to villas, Tuscany Residence is a dream comes true.



We take care of it all

De Groot adds, "Our project is in continuous construction which builds confidence. He continues saying that maintenance, property management, rental program and safety are taken care of. "You can log in from abroad and manage your property for rental or view your administration." The great thing about Tuscany is that it offers everything equal to a resort but you do not need to wait for an elevator to bring you up, worry about parking space or noisy neighbors. "We have got space and different size offerings making this more a community feel rather than a packed condo building." He also emphasizes that the location is one of the best on Aruba as it is quiet and close to Palm Beach.

Reasons to buy

Reasons to consider Aruba property ownership, at Tuscany Residence Aruba

- Excellent price-quality ratio
- Beautiful designs & Quality construction
- Residential Park with all amenities
- Property land on top-location
- Varies properties in different price range
- Onsite Maintenance Team, Property Management & Rental Program

Are you looking for a safe, quiet, residential area where you will meet a mix of local and foreign owners? Do you feel for a warm community with amenities like wellness, gym, restaurants, pools and this all within a structure where the residence takes care of your property management while you are not here? Can the highest European quality and solid working structure take away your preoccupations while you are home? Than meet us, we are here to convince you with quality!

For an impression of Daimari Water Villas have a look at the website: <https://www.tuscany-residencearuba.com/en/news>. For more information please contact Bas de Groot by phone +297-7332424 or email bas@tuscanyresidencearuba.com. □

Tuscany Residence Aruba

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How gratitude can help your financial life

By **LIZ WESTON** of NerdWallet

Gratitude makes us more aware of the sources of joy, wonder and hope in our lives. Being grateful also can improve health, strengthen relationships and help us manage our money.

Developing gratitude requires us to focus on what we have rather than on what we lack, says Meghaan Lurtz, a senior research associate with financial planning site Kitces.com and past president of the Financial Therapy Association. Such thankfulness has been shown to reduce feelings of impatience, perhaps making it easier to save and delay gratification as well as decreasing the temptation to spend. "(Gratitude) can help to quell that 'I need more, I need different, I need this, I need that' feeling," Lurtz says.

GRATITUDE MAKES US HAPPIER

Gratitude is a social, relationship-strengthening emotion with two parts, according to Robert Emmons,

a professor of psychology at the University of California, Davis, and author of "Thanks! How the New Science of Gratitude Can Make You Happier."

The first part is acknowledgement of the gifts and benefits we've received. The second is recognition that we have been blessed by help from others, good luck or perhaps the intervention of a higher power. Gratitude "requires us to see how we've been supported and affirmed by other people," Emmons writes.

"There is a really important social quality to gratitude," Lurtz says. "It can bring us together, it can connect us, it can help us to feel safe."

It also short-circuits many negative emotions, such as resentment, envy or regret, Emmons found — it's tough to feel envy and gratitude at the same time, for example. Lurtz believes that gratitude can increase contentment and reduces the desire to "keep up with the Joneses" by overspending or working excessively.

"We're always trying to get to that next level," Lurtz says. "We should be asking, 'When is enough, enough?'"

The positive effects of gratitude, such as improvements in mental health, can strengthen over time. In a 2017 study, college students who wrote weekly letters of gratitude to another person for three weeks reported better mental health than other participants four weeks later, and the difference in mental health increased after 12 weeks, according to researchers at Indiana University.

"When you bring to mind that these things are going well, eventually, you'll get to the point where you see more of those good things," Lurtz says.

GRATITUDE CAN HELP COUPLES NAVIGATE MONEY CONFLICTS

Gratitude can help couples weather financial conflicts, a 2015 study by researchers at the University of Georgia found.

Feeling appreciated and expressing appreciation



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for the personal finance website. NerdWallet via Associated Press

are hallmarks of strong partnerships, says Ed Coombs, a certified financial planner and couples therapist in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"In a flourishing, healthy relationship, gratitude flows naturally and pretty easily," Coombs says. "In a functioning relationship, it's more intermittent, a little less consistent. In a dysfunctional relationship, it's absent."

Lurtz believes many couples'

disputes over money stem from partners not feeling appreciated. For example, one partner may reward themselves with purchases because they don't feel adequately rewarded elsewhere in their lives. Meanwhile, the other partner may feel underappreciated for their efforts to save money and look after the couples' future.

The future-focused spouse isn't "right" and the present-focused one isn't "wrong." □

Oil at 7-year high after OPEC+ decides on cautious increase

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Oil prices jumped Monday after OPEC and allied oil producing countries stayed with their gradual approach to restoring output slashed during the pandemic, agreeing to add only 400,000 barrels per day in November.

The decision Monday by the Vienna-based oil cartel along with non-members including Russia tracks with its established schedule of adding back that amount of oil every month until deep cuts made in 2020 to support prices during the depth of the pandemic recession are restored next year.

The situation has changed since then as the global economy recovers. The decision comes amid stronger demand for oil products like gasoline and jet fuel,

as driving and flying pick up around the globe due to the easing of restrictions aimed at containing the COVID-19 pandemic.

On top of that, unusually high prices for natural gas are pushing some electricity producers in Asia to switch from natural gas to oil-based products, helping support prices.

The price of a barrel of crude hit \$78.38, the highest since 2014, then eased to trade 2% higher on the day at \$77.87 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The Brent international benchmark was at \$81.57, up 2.9%.

"Producing nations, and namely OPEC+, have to be careful not to allow prices to inflate too much, otherwise we may see an adverse reaction that could negatively impact post-pandemic economic



In this Wednesday, April 8, 2020 file photo, the sun sets behind an idle pump jack near Karnes City, USA.

Associated Press

growth," said Bjornar Tonhaugen, head of oil markets at Rystad Energy.

"Nevertheless, OPEC+ will surely keep on monitoring market developments and can amend policy going forward if needed," Tonhaugen said. OPEC+ scheduled its next meeting for Nov. 4.

White House national se-

curity adviser Jake Sullivan raised concerns about rising oil prices when he met officials in key OPEC member Saudi Arabia earlier this week in talks that largely focused on the war in Yemen, according to a senior administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. Sullivan

and other members of his delegation reiterated the importance of creating conditions to support the global economic recovery caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the official added.

Last week White House press secretary Jen Psaki said that White House officials have stayed in communication with OPEC about prices and were looking for tools to address the issue as Brent crude topped \$80 per barrel last month.

The price of crude makes up roughly half the cost of gasoline at the pump in the U.S. National average gasoline prices have been holding steady at around \$3.20 per gallon in recent days, according to motorist club federation AAA. The average is 97 cents more than a year ago. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Met

1 Like sea performer
urchins

6 Parking pro

11 Joust need

12 Chris of "The Avengers"

13 Adequate

15 Spoil

16 Unruly group

17 Quarter-back

Manning

18 Campaign phrases

20 In favor of

21 Sturdy tree

22 Nuisance

23 Wake-up sound

26 Canada natives

27 Depend

28 Sock part

29 — de mer

30 Fuel gas

34 Commotion

35 Feel poorly

36 Model buy

37 Practical

40 Provinces

41 Mall

business

42 Like

wetlands

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-5

CRYPTOQUOTE

GRND IAN TQICNT PRL SNIA

GL TYNIE SLA GRN SIQQNU

IUJ GRN PNIE. — OIBNT

AXTTNQQ QLPNQQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU WANT SOMETHING SAID, ASK A MAN. IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE, ASK A WOMAN. MARGARET THATCHER

S	W	I	G	S		S	C	A	R	
H	E	R	O	N		T	U	B	E	R
E	L	A	T	E		A	T	A	L	E
E	S	Q		A	W	L		N	I	N
T	H	I	C	K	H	E	A	D	E	D
			R	I	O		L	O	V	E
B	A	C	O	N		F	I	N	E	R
O	S	L	O		S	A	G			
T	H	I	N	S	K	I	N	N	E	D
T	A	M		T	I	N		O	L	E
O	M	A	H	A		T	O	W	E	L
M	E	T	A	L		E	D	I	C	T
D	E	S	K		D	E	N	T	S	

Yesterday's answer

14 Bop on the noggin
19 Unpleasant, as details
22 Make ready
23 Fleets
24 Galena, for one
25 Permitted
26 Most unflappable
28 Singing group
30 Singer Cline
31 Ohio city
32 Blasting stuff
33 Old anesthetic
38 Pester
39 Had breakfast

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
15				16				17	
18			19					20	
		21					22		
23	24	25				26			
27					28				
29				30				31	32
34				35				36	
37			38					39	
40							41		
42							43		

10-5

Whistleblower: Facebook chose profit over public safety



In this Sept. 16, 2021, photo provided by CBS, Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen talks with CBS' Scott Pelley on "60 Minutes," in an episode that aired Sunday, Oct. 3.

Associated Press

By DAVID BAUDER and MICHAEL LIEDTKE

NEW YORK (AP) — A data scientist who was revealed Sunday as the Facebook whistleblower says that whenever there was a conflict between the public good and what benefited the company, the social media giant would choose its own interests.

Frances Haugen was identified in a "60 Minutes" interview Sunday as the woman who anonymously filed complaints with federal law enforcement that the company's own research shows how it magnifies hate and misinformation. Haugen, who worked at Google and Pinterest before joining Facebook in 2019, said she had asked to work in an area of the company that fights misinformation, since she lost a friend to online conspiracy theories.

"Facebook, over and over again, has shown it chooses profit over safety," she said. Haugen, who will testify before Congress this week, said she hopes that by coming forward the government will put regulations in place to govern the company's activities. She said Facebook prematurely turned off safeguards designed to thwart misinformation and rabble rousing after Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump last year, alleging that contributed to the deadly Jan. 6 invasion of the U.S. Capitol.

Post-election, the company dissolved a unit on civic integrity where she had been working, which Hau-

gen said was the moment she realized "I don't trust that they're willing to actually invest what needs to be invested to keep Facebook from being dangerous."

At issue are algorithms that govern what shows up on users' news feeds, and how they favor hateful content. Haugen said a 2018 change to the content flow contributed to more divisiveness and ill will in a network ostensibly created to bring people closer together.

Despite the enmity that the new algorithms were feeding, Facebook found that they helped keep people coming back a pattern that helped the Menlo Park, California, social media giant sell more of the digital ads that generate most of its advertising. Facebook's annual revenue has more than doubled from \$56 billion in 2018 to a projected \$119 billion this year, based on the estimates of analysts surveyed by FactSet. Meanwhile, the company's market value has soared from \$375 billion at the end of 2018 to nearly \$1 trillion now.

Even before the full interview came out on Sunday, a top Facebook executive was deriding the whistleblower's allegations as "misleading."

"Social media has had a big impact on society in recent years, and Facebook is often a place where much of this debate plays out," Nick Clegg, the company's vice president of policy and public affairs wrote to Facebook employees in

a memo sent Friday. "But what evidence there is simply does not support the idea that Facebook, or social media more generally, is the primary cause of polarization."

The "60 Minutes" interview intensifies the spotlight already glaring on Facebook as lawmakers and regulators around the world scrutinize the social networking's immense power to shape opinions and its polarizing effects on society.

The backlash has been intensifying since The Wall Street Journal's mid-September publication of an expose that revealed Facebook's internal research had concluded the social network's attention-seeking algorithms had helped foster political dissent and contributed to mental health and emotional problems among teens, especially girls.

After copying thousands of pages of Facebook's internal research, Haugen leaked them to the Journal to provide the foundation for a succession of stories packaged as the "Facebook Files."

Although Facebook asserted the Journal had cherry-picked the most damaging information in the internal documents to cast the company in the worst possible light, the revelations prompted an indefinite delay in the rollout of a kids' version of its popular photo- and video-sharing app, Instagram. Facebook currently requires people to be at least 13 years old to open an Instagram account.

Clegg appeared on CNN's "Reliable Sources" Sunday in another pre-emptive attempt to soften the blow of Haugen's interview.

"Even with the most sophisticated technology, which I believe we deploy, even with the tens of thousands of people that we employ to try and maintain safety and integrity on our platform," Clegg told CNN, "we're never going to be absolutely on top of this 100% of the time." □



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Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Narcotics Anonymous
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Relacional Tel. 583 5400

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HTTA

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HTTA

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HTTA

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PBS Kids introduces a 6-year-old heroine with 'Alma's Way'

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alma has a dilemma: The 6-year-old New Yorker has tickets for a baseball game on Saturday with her grandfather, but she told her uncle she'd help him with a dance recital that day.

"I promised I'd help him. I made a commitment," she says, taking a moment to think about her choices. "OK, I know what to do." She breaks the news to her grandfather — a promise is a promise. "I completely understand," he tells her. "It's good to honor your commitments."

Alma is the lively, thoughtful heroine of "Alma's Way," a new animated PBS Kids series set in the city's melting pot Bronx borough and featuring a Puerto Rican and biracial extended family. It debuts this week. The Fred Rogers Productions series has some starry creators. It was sparked and produced by Sonia Manzano, who played Maria while winning 15 Emmys as a writer on "Sesame Street." And no less than "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda helped supply the theme song.

"The main overriding hope is that I want kids to understand that everybody has a brain and they can use their brains and they can think. It's as simple as that," says Manzano.



This image released by PBS Kids shows a scene from "Alma's Way," featuring Alma Rivera, second from right, a Puerto Rican girl who lives in the Bronx borough of New York City with her parents and younger brother, Junior, right.

Associated Press

Designed for children ages 4-6, each 11-minute episode tries to help kids find their own answers to problems, express what they think and feel and recognize and respect the unique perspective of others.

In one episode, Alma tries to help make her mom's mofongo dish better by quietly adding more and more ingredients. But it ultimately tastes lousy and she needs to come clean. In another, she stands up for her artistic vision on a mural, and in a third, she figures out how to cheer up her brother.

"Alma's Way" isn't just set in the Bronx, it's grounded in it, with authentic-looking houses, multicultural resi-

dents, elevated train tracks and honking cars. The series even asked the city transit authority for permission to use a likeness of the 6 train (and the announcer's call "Stand clear of the closing doors, please.")

"I think that more specificity just leads to more relatability, because the more real, the more true the characters feel, the more interesting it is," says Ellen Doherty, executive producer and chief creative officer of Fred Rogers Productions.

Manzano, who also voices the grandmother, wanted it to look like the neighborhood she knew so well and the people she grew up with. She considered every

detail — even Alma's nose. "I didn't want to be perky and turned up, I wanted to be round, I wanted to have a little Afro-Puerto Rican in her," she says. "I think this is the first time that I have seen a Hispanic character that has an Afro-Puerto Rican vibe to her."

Her voice is supplied by 9-year-old Summer Rose Castillo, the daughter of April Hernandez Castillo, an actor with roles in TV shows such as "Dexter," "ER" and "Law & Order" and was in the movie "Freedom Writers."

Summer Rose nailed the audition, in part by rapping about her school — Manzano thought she had "swag"

— and recorded her vocal parts in a home studio built by her dad. They live, appropriately, in the Bronx.

"It's challenging to find the right actress. We didn't want somebody too slick, but we wanted somebody who could do the job," says Manzano. "So she was just perfect."

Summer Rose says she likes to draw, write and sing. One of her biggest dreams is meeting Miranda. "It's really important for people to look at 'Alma's Way' and feel like there's a mirror and Alma looks exactly like them," she says.

There is music throughout — salsa, plena and bomba, along with other Latin genres such as Cuban son and Colombian cumbia. Miranda was tasked with writing the theme song with Bill Sherman and they came up with a delightful mashup of Latin music, hip-hop and rap.

"He can say with four words what it takes the rest of us 20," Manzano says about Miranda. "And in the theme song, you have to like pack in what the show is about." In the episodes, Alma often witnesses adults deal with an issue — a mom telling her partner that an item of clothing is too small — and then she applies it to her own life after thinking it over. Or she identifies a problem and works through it. □

John Legend joins The Temptations musical producing team



Jelani Remy, from left, Matt Manuel, John Legend, Jawan M. Jackson, Nik Walker and James Harkness arrive at the 74th annual Tony Awards at Winter Garden Theatre on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

By **MARK KENNEDY** AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — At the Tony Awards, John Legend played live with cast members from the Broadway musical "Ain't Too Proud — The Life and Times of the Temptations." Now he's going further and joining the show's producing team.

Legend and his partners Mike Jackson and Ty Stiklorious from Get Lifted Film Co. are backing the musical about The Temptations, which is preparing to return to Broadway on Oct. 16.

"This is a musical I love and a story I want to help share.

In this pivotal time, it's so important that we support and maintain Broadway, an essential part of the soul of New York and the entire nation. I'm honored to be a part of the 'Ain't Too Proud' team and the return of Broadway," Legend said in a statement.

"Ain't Too Proud" traces the rise of R&B group The Temptations, who sang such hits as "Just My Imagination," "My Girl" and "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone." This year marks the 60th anniversary of the group's founding and a new album is due next year, kicked off by the

single "Is It Gonna Be Yes or No" written by Smokey Robinson.

Get Lifted's recent releases include documentaries "Giving Voice" and "40 Years a Prisoner," the HBO docuseries "Atlanta's Missing and Murdered: The Lost Children," the IFC and AMC comedy series "Sherman's Showcase" and Netflix rap competition "Rhythm + Flow."

Legend and his team also helped produce a 2017 Broadway production of August Wilson's "Jitney," for which they won the Tony for best play revival. □

Andy Reid's homecoming easier than Tom Brady's

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Andy Reid kicked off Homecoming Sunday with a record-setting win in Philadelphia, and Tom Brady finished it with one of his own against Bill Belichick in New England.

The road to victory was easier for Reid.

The 63-year-old coach watched Patrick Mahomes throw five touchdown passes to lead the high-powered Kansas City Chiefs to a 42-30 win over the Eagles. Reid became the first coach in NFL history to win 100 games with two teams, reaching that milestone against his old club.

Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers had to grind out a 19-17 win over the Patriots that was secured when Nick Folk hit the left upright on a 56-yard field goal attempt in the closing seconds on a rain-soaked night. Earlier, Brady became the NFL's all-time leader in yards passing, breaking Drew Brees' mark at Gillette Stadium, where the seven-time Super Bowl champion played his first 20 seasons.

Cleveland Browns coach Kevin Stefanski also had a triumphant return, earning a 14-7 win in Minnesota, where he spent 14 seasons as an assistant.

Reid already came back



Kansas City Chiefs head coach Andy Reid reacts after an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

to Philadelphia as a visitor in 2013, so this trip wasn't as emotional for him.

"I'm pretty good with it," he said with a smile. "You want me to cry up here? I don't have anything more to say."

Reid joked about eating cheesesteaks and warned the media and fans to be patient with Eagles rookie coach Nick Sirianni.

"Just keep doing what you're doing, man, and you're going to be fine," Reid said of his advice for Sirianni. "He's got a strong personality, a strong kid, man. And you need that here. You guys can be a

little rough. But you got to have that and keep moving. You don't let things grab you and take you down."

Reid's players badly wanted to get Big Red that 100th win in Philadelphia, where he won more games than any coach in Eagles history. "It's awesome," said Tyreek Hill, who had three touchdown catches and 186 yards receiving. "Seeing him in the locker room fired up is surreal, man. As a kid I used to watch TV and see Coach Reid coaching in Philadelphia. I used to have dreams and aspirations of playing in the NFL, and now

I'm actually playing for one of the greatest coaches of all time."

Reid led Philadelphia to five NFC championship games, winning only one. The Eagles lost their lone Super Bowl appearance under Reid to Brady and Belichick following the 2004 season. But Reid finally hoisted that Vince Lombardi Trophy two years ago and guided the Chiefs back to the Super Bowl last season, losing to Brady and the Buccaneers. "I think it's special to him for sure being in Philadelphia," Mahomes said. "He became Andy Reid in a sense in Philadelphia. And to be

able to go to Kansas City and build what he's built here, and get that 100th win in Philadelphia — and obviously he's going to keep on going, he has a lot of dreams for this season — but he'll definitely take in this moment for a second at least."

Mahomes later added: "No offense to Philly, I'm glad they let him go and he's here coaching us in Kansas City."

For the 44-year-old Brady, going back home was an emotional experience throughout the week even before he jogged onto the field in warmups to "Brady, Brady, Brady!" chants.

"That was pretty cool," he said. "It's been my home for 20 years. I have the best memories. My kids were born here. It's just a great town, a great city, a great area. I love it up here. I have so many people I have relationships with, but this was about this team coming up here to win. This wasn't about one player. This was about our entire team going on the road, beating a good team."

Brady kept his emotions in check during the game, facing a defense that knows him better than anyone. He completed only 51.1% of his passes and didn't throw any touchdown passes but left victorious, as usual. □

Bubba Wallace earns 1st victory in rain-shortened race

By **JENNA FRYER**

AP Auto Racing Writer

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP) — Bubba Wallace became just the second Black driver to win at NASCAR's top Cup Series level when rain stopped Monday's playoff race at Talladega Superspeedway.

Wallace had driven through a crash and to the front of the field five laps before the second rain stoppage of the race. NASCAR tried to dry the track for nearly 45 minutes, but up against sundown and the rain not showing any signs of ceasing, the race was called off.

Wallace had been waiting atop his pit stand for NASCAR to make a decision and exploded in celebration with his crew when the race was called. Wallace is in his first season driving for 23XI Racing, a team owned by both Denny Hamlin and Michael Jordan.

He's the first Black driver to win at NASCAR's elite Cup level since Wendell Scott in 1963 — a race where he wasn't declared the victor for several months. NASCAR at last presented Scott's family with his trophy from that race two months ago.

Wallace broke down in tears after he'd returned to his parked No. 23 Toyota. The car number was picked for co-owner Jordan, who wore 23 in the NBA.

"This is for all the kids out there that want to have an opportunity and whatever they want to achieve, and be the best at what they want to do," Wallace said as he choked back tears. "You're going to go through a lot of (BS). But you always got to stick true to your path and not let the nonsense get to you. Stay strong. Stay humble. Stay hungry. Been plenty

of times when I wanted to give up."

In June 2020 at Talladega, NASCAR discovered a noose in the garage stall assigned to Wallace. The finding came just a week after NASCAR had banned the Confederate flag at its events at Wallace's urging. The FBI investigated and found that the noose was tied at the end of the garage door pull and Wallace was not a victim of a hate crime. The entire industry rallied around him, though, and stood in solidarity with Wallace at his car at the front of the grid before the race. □



Team members of a car Bubba Wallace drives is pushed off pit row after a NASCAR Cup series auto race was postponed until tomorrow due to wet conditions, Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, in Talladega, Ala.

Associated Press

No scramble, playoffs set: Yanks-Red Sox, Giants win West

By **BEN WALKER**
AP Baseball Writer

Rafael Devers delivered big time for the Boston Red Sox. Aaron Judge did just enough for the New York Yankees. And Buster Posey boosted the San Francisco Giants to the NL West crown, dropping the 106-win Dodgers into a dangerous wild-card game.

In a flash, the Major League Baseball playoff field was all settled Sunday.

No crazy tiebreaker scenarios. No chaos on the final day. And for fans who wanted drama — no problem, that's on deck.

Yankees-Red Sox to start the postseason in an all-or-nothing October duel at Fenway Park. Sound familiar?

"We'll be ready," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "It should be fun."

Boston and New York both scored the winning run in the ninth inning in Game 162 to seal their spots in the AL wild-card matchup Tuesday night, when it'll be Yankees ace Gerrit Cole against Nathan Eovaldi.

So between now and then, count on seeing endless re-



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge, right, gestures to fans after a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, in New York. The Yankees won 1-0.

Associated Press

plays of Bucky Dent's home run over the Green Monster that lifted the Yankees over Boston in their famed 1978 one-game meeting for the AL East title.

Shut out of this year's postseason party were Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and his Toronto Blue Jays, along with the Seattle Mariners; they each needed a loss by either the

Red Sox or Yankees to have a chance.

"Unfortunately, our fate was in the hands of another team," said George Springer, who homered twice in Toronto's win over Baltimore. "We were hoping for something, but obviously it didn't happen."

The Giants clinched the NL West with their franchise-re-

cord 107th win, routing San Diego 11-4 behind Posey's three RBIs. They needed all of those victories to hold off the World Series champion Dodgers.

"You're going to be hard pressed to see another race like this for quite a while," said Posey, the three-time champion catcher who sat out last season because of

COVID-19 concerns.

The Dodgers dropped into the NL wild-card game Wednesday night, when they'll host the hard-charging St. Louis Cardinals. Pretty neat tilt, too: Max Scherzer vs. Adam Wainwright. The best-of-five Division Series begin Thursday with a pair of AL games.

It'll be 76-year-old Hall of Fame manager Tony La Russa leading the Chicago White Sox into Houston to match wits with 72-year-old skipper Dusty Baker and the Astros.

Also, 20-year-old rookie sensation Wander Franco and the Tampa Bay Rays will welcome the AL wild-card winner.

On Friday, the NL series start up with Charlie Morton and the Atlanta Braves visiting Corbin Burnes and the pitching-rich Milwaukee Brewers, who are still bidding for their first World Series crown.

Posey and the Giants will play the wild-card winner at Oracle Park.

By design, all 15 games on the last day of the regular season began at roughly the same time. □

MLB .244 batting average worst since '68, up after crackdown



Cincinnati Reds' Joey Votto, left, strikes out with bases loaded during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The major league batting average dropped to .244 this season, its lowest since the year of the pitcher in 1968, though offense picked up markedly following baseball's midseason crackdown on grip-enhancing substances for pitchers.

MLB's stricter enforcement

had the desired impact, ending a run of 12 consecutive full seasons in which strikeouts had set records annually.

From opening day through June 2, the last day before the crackdown, batters hit .236 with a .395 slugging percentage, a .707 OPS and an average of 4.36

runs per team each game. From June 3 through the end of the regular season, the average rose to .248 with a .419 slugging percentage, a .738 OPS and an average of 4.62 runs.

There were a record 2,664 more strikeouts than hits, the gap increasing from 1,147 during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season and 784 in 2019, when strikeouts topped hits for the first time. While there were 42,145 strikeouts, a slight decrease from 42,823 in 2019, hits declined from 42,039 to 39,481 as computer-aided defensive shifts proliferated. The big league batting average was .271 in 1999 at the height of the Steroids Era, when there were 45,327 hits.

The major league batting average dropped to a record-low .237 in 1968, prompting MLB to lower the pitcher's mound from

15 inches to 10 the following season and to shrink the strike zone.

Fastball spin rates declined from an average of 2,319 revolutions per minute before June 3 to 2,251 after, and velocity was virtually unchanged, increasing from 93.6 to 93.7 mph, the commissioner's office said Monday. Curveball spin rates dropped from an average of 2,552 to 2,484 and sliders from an average of 2,462 to 2,393.

The percentage of plate appearances ending in strikeouts dropped from 24.2% before the crackdown to 22.7% after, while walks fell from 8.9% to 8.2%. Home runs increased from 3.1% to 3.4% and hit by pitches were stable at 1.16%. Those figures all exclude intentional walks.

This year's batting average of .243799 was just below 1972's .243807, down from

.245 in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season and .252 in 2019. There average was in the .260s from 2001-09 before the rise of defensive shifts.

There were 5,944 home runs, down from a record 6,776 in 2019, which broke the mark of 6,105 set in 2017.

Baseball officials are concerned about the decreased action caused by the dominance of the so-called Three True Outcomes: home run, walk and strikeout.

MLB experimented with a 12-inch greater distance between the mound and home plate during a portion of the Atlantic League season but found the increased distance was largely not noticeable from the 60 feet, 6 inches, that has been standard since the NL moved back the mound by 5 feet in 1883. □